

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2775
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERSUALEM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0768

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, XF
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS ON MARCH AGENDA AND
SYG'S REPORT ON THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: A) USUN 763; B) STATE 57627

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: SECURITY COUNCIL MET IN INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS
ON MARCH 15. CONSENSUS DEVELOPED THAT SC SCHEDULE FOR MARCH
WOULD PROCEED AS FOLLOWS: RHODESIAN SANCTIONS - MARCH 18, QUESTION
OF SOUTH AFRICA - MARCH 21 FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK-TEN DAYS
FOLLOWED BY BENIN REPORT. COUNCIL FURTHER AGREED THAT SYG' REPORT
ON MIDDLE EAST SHOULD BE DISCUSSED BY SECURITY COUNCIL FOLLOWING
FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WHEN DATE WOULD BE SET. END SUMMARY.

2. PER REFTEL B, WE APPROACHED AMB. MEGUID BEFORE SECURITY
COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS. MEGUID NOTED THAT EGYPT WOULD LIKE THE
SECURITY COUNCIL AT ITS CONSULTATIONS ONLY TO AGREE IN PRINCIPLE
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TO MEET ON THE SYG'S REPORT ON THE MIDDLE EAST. MEGUID ADDED THAT
A DATE COULD BE FIXED LATER PROBABLY AFTER FURTHER SC CONSULTA-
TIONS. (NOTE: THE EGYPTIAN MISSION TOLD US LATER THAT EGYPT DOES
NOT EXCLUDE ENTIRELY A MEETING ON THE SYG'S REPORT LATER THIS
MONTH; POSSIBLY AFTER THE DEBATE ON SOUTH AFRICA AND BEFORE THE
MEETINGS ON THE BENIN REPORT, SINCE BENIN MISSION IS FLEXIBLE ON
TIMING.)

3. AT SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS, THE DELEGATIONS OF MAURITIUS, INDIA, PANAMA, PAKISTAN, AND LIBYA SPOKE ON SCHEDULING DEBATE ON THE SYG'S REPORT. MAURITIUS DEL SAID EGYPT AND THE ARAB GROUP WERE NOT IN A HURRY AND DEBATE SHOULD BE MODERATE AND BRIEF. HE REMARKED THAT THE PLO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN ANY SC DEBATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST. INDIA DEL RECALLED GA RES 31/62 AND STATED THAT WITH REGARD TO TIMING, INDIA WOULD PREFER THE DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY THE SC PRESIDENT AND THE PARTIES. PANAMA CONCURRED IN LEAVING THE DATE OF THE DEBATE OPEN PENDING FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PARTIES AND THE PLO. PANAMA ADDED THAT POSSIBILITY SHOULD BE EXPLORED OF DISCUSSING SYG'S REPORT BEFORE THE END OF MARCH SHOULD THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEBATE FINISH MORE PROMPTLY THAN ANTICIPATED.

4. PAKISTAN DEL THOUGHT TWO OR THREE MEETINGS COULD BE DEVOTED TO SYG'S REPORT, PERHAPS LATER THIS MONTH. LIBYA SAID GA RES 31/62 INDICATES COUNCIL IS TO CONSIDER ENTIRE SITUATION IN TE MIDDLE EAST, HENCE A BRIEF MEETING IS NOT LIKELY; PERHAPS BETTER TO HOLD DEBATE ON SYG'S REPORT IN APRIL. SC PRESIDENT (YOUNG) SUMMARIZED EXCHANGES ON SCHEDULE BY SUGGESTING RHODESIAN SANCTIONS BE TAKEN UP ON MARCH 18, FOLLOWED BY SOUTH AFRICAN DEBATE ON MARCH 21 (IN THE AFTERNOON) AND FINALLY AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF SOUTH AFRICA, TO PROCEED TO BENIN. THE COUNCIL PRESUMABLY WOULD THEN CONSULT ON WHEN TO SCHEDULE MEETING ON THE SYG'S REPORT.

5. SYG WALDHEIM POINTED OUT THAT IF THE MIDDLE EAST
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DISCUSSION IS SCHEDULED IN APRIL, HE WOULD ASK THE COUNCIL TO BEAR IN MIND THAT HE WILL BE IN VIENNA AND PARIS FROM MARCH 31-APRIL 8 OR 9. HE ADDED THAT HE ANTICIPATED THAT THE COUNCIL MEMBERS WOULD EXPECT HIM TO ATTEND MEETINGS DEALING WITH HIS REPORT ON THE MIDDLE EAST. SC PRESIDENT THEN NOTED, SHOULD THE MARCH SCHEDULE MOVE AHEAD RAPIDLY, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE THE SYG'S REPORT ON THE AGENDA BEFORE THE END OF MARCH. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT SCHEDULE FOR REMAINDER OF MONTH IS ALREADY QUITE FULL.

6. COMMENT: SPECULATION AMONG SC MEMBERS ON WHY EGYPTIANS SHIFTED POSITIONS FROM ASKING FOR SC DEBATE ON SYG'S REPORT FROM THIS WEEK TO UNSPECIFIED LATER DATE CENTERS ON TWO HYPOTHESES: THAT EGYPT AND ARABS WOULD LIKE A FULL-DRESS MAJOR MIDDLE EAST DEBATE LATER, AND/OR THAT AFRICANS RESENTED EGYPT'S ATTEMPTING TO CROWD SC SCHEDULE WITH MIDDLE EAST ITEM. EGYPTIAN MISSION (HAGGAG) CONVEYED TO US AT

LEAST PART OF THEIR VERSION OF CHANGE: THAT AT THE MEETING WITH ARAB AMBASSADORS EVENING OF MARCH 14 IT WAS AGREED THAT A MEETING ON THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE THE DAY BEFORE PRESIDENT CARTER SPEAKS IN THE GA HALL AND MOREOVER IT WAS UNDESIRABLE TO "SPOIL" THE AFRICAN DEBATE. HAGGAG ADDED THAT ADDITIONAL FACTORS INFLUENCING POSTPONEMENT OF THE DEBATE WERE THE PNC ASSEMBLY NOW UNDER WAY, THE UPCOMING MEETING OF THE CONFRONTATION STATES, AND PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. IN ANY EVENT, THE DEBATE ON THE SYG'S REPORT NOW APPEARS TO BE POSTPONED PROBABLY UNTIL AFTER PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT (APRIL 4-5, TENTATIVELY) AND AFTER THE SYG'S RETURN FROM EUROPE, APRIL 9, BUT AT THE SAME TIME THE LIKELIHOOD HAS BEEN INCREASED THAT THE DEBATE, WHENEVER IT TAKES PLACE, WILL EXPAND INTO A LONGER AND BROADER AFFAIR. MOREOVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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POSTPONEMENT OF DEBATE RAISES FURTHER POSSIBILITY IN LIGHT OF APPROACHING ISRAELI ELECTIONS OF A HIGHER LEVEL OF VITUPERATION WITH ENSUING ILL-EFFECTS ON THE PEACE PROCESS. YOUNG

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